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Charge Called "Utter Lie"

Berlin, Mar. 29.—In a formal note to the United States High Commission in Berlin, the Russians tonight charged that a crew member of an American military freight train had deliberately fired on and destroyed a railway traffic signal in the Soviet Zone.

The charge was denied by the American authorities as "an utter lie." The Soviet charge, coupled with a "slowdown blockade" of highway traffic, increased concern in quarters over the possibility of a renewed blockade.

—United Press.

New Shanghai Evacuation Plan Okayed

San Francisco, Mar. 29.—The American President Lines announced on Wednesday that its Shanghai office has completed negotiations to evacuate 2,000 foreign nationals, including Americans, from Shanghai.

An American President Lines spokesman said both the Chinese Communists and Nationalists have agreed to evacuate the refugees on two river steamers. The steamers will proceed to Saddle Island, in the mouth of the Yangtze River, where they will rendezvous with the two LSTs that have been waiting there since previous negotiations broke down.

The spokesman said the LSTs will go directly either to Nagasaki or Yokohama. There, the passengers will wait to be picked up later by the liners General Gordon and President Cleveland on their next trips to the Far East.

The APL said it had heard nothing from the State Department.

The General Gordon is now about three days out of Honolulu. It started from Japan after a previous attempt to arrange the evacuation fell through.

—United Press.

EDITORIAL

A Demand For Realism

PUBLIC opinion which has been challenging, forcibly and almost unanimously, the justice of Government's proposals for balancing the budget, can derive no whit of satisfaction from the result. Judged by the official attitude, disclosed yesterday, the main issue is settled, to all intents and purposes, and against the critics. Outwardly, this may not be obvious. The procedure permitted stalling, and the art of leaving things in the air was neatly executed. A promise was given that the Government will explore all methods of raising additional revenue, apart from increasing direct taxation scales, with the views of the Unofficials kept clearly in mind. New legislation will be required and there will be further opportunity for debate. Unfortunately, unless we seriously mistake the meaning of the Financial Secretary's analysis of potential revenue sources, hopes that there is implied an intention to avoid new taxation by way of direct taxation should not be held high lest they prove delusory. In the main, Mr. Follows set himself to break down arguments in favour of other methods of boosting revenue. There were reasons why this could not or should not be done, why this would not be worth while, how there were peculiar complications which would prevent that being worked satisfactorily in Hongkong. Much of it, of course, carried conviction, but the natural consequence, oddly enough, was that the Financial Secretary found himself with only two sources of higher revenue, the Inland Revenue Department, and the business registration scheme outlined by the Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almada. Any visionary expectation that one might be substituted for the other was blacked out, however, by raising the ante, setting the revenue target at \$204,000,000, and the possible

deficit at \$12,000,000, too heavy to be covered by receipts from business registration fees. No personal criticism of the Financial Secretary is possible. As the guardian of the Colony's finances, he is entitled to his opinions and his conservatism. If, however, Mr. Follows is entitled to congratulations on a suave and clever presentation of the Government's case, and his sincerity, it does not follow that agreement is compelled. Weak points abound. Perhaps it is entirely correct to say Unofficial members of the Legislative Council accepted the Government's basic insistence that the deficit must be covered. Small is the quarrel on that score. But acquiescence is quite a different thing from further consenting to the idea that a deficit is inevitable without new taxation. If it seems wrong for comparatively few to meet the cost of providing security for the many, it is doubly wrong to bleed the few before an absolute necessity is demonstrated. As several times urged, Government would be on happier ground if, after three months, the revenue estimates were proved substantially correct. The critics, in discomfiture, would respect the Financial Secretary's acumen, and willingly disgorge. Then the disclosure that the Government has devoted much time to devising a means for wealthy refugees to contribute to the cost of administration. As they are mostly living on capital, said Mr. Follows, they are affected only by indirect taxation. A more powerful plea for tackling the problem from that angle can hardly be imagined—except that Government did not mean it to be so interpreted. There remains only the assurance that the various aspects will be further considered. We can only insist that the process must be realistic, and that fears are unwarranted that minds are already made up.

Colonial Sec. To Visit Malaya This Summer

London, Mar. 29.—The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, told Parliament today that he hoped that the Colonial Secretary, Mr. James Griffiths, would be able to visit Malaya this summer.

He had been asked by Mr. Arthur Harvey (Conservative) to consider arranging such a visit in view of the disturbed situation in Malaya.

Mr. Harvey further suggested that a visit in the immediate future would be far more beneficial than one further ahead as it would encourage those who were fighting the "bandits."

Mr. Attlee replied, "The campaign against the bandits is very fully organised, I cannot say the exact time (for the Colonial Secretary's visit) but we agree that it would be a useful thing for him to visit Malaya."

The House laughed when Mr. Walter Fletcher (Conservative) suggested that in view of the risks involved and in the interests of economy Mr. Griffiths should take a single ticket.

There was no reply when Brander, Otho Prida, Palmer (Conservative) asked if it was not equally important for the War Minister, Mr. John Strachey, to go too.

LONDON REACTIONS

The projected visit of the Colonial Secretary to Malaya this summer, announced today, quickened expectation in political quarters that there will be early moves to give Malaya greater control of their own affairs.

But observers here were sceptical about an American news agency report suggesting "a Cabinet of Asian Ministers" as an immediate likelihood.

It is known that talks are taking place in Malaya between the British High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney, and local leaders on the general question of political advances through the new constitution.

These talks touch on possible changes, such as the inclusion of Malayan political leaders in the Executive Council with the style of Ministers and change of certain administrative departments.

Jamaica provided a precedent for giving members Ministerial style and charge of departments.

There, elected members of the Legislative Council are elected by the lower body to the Executive Council, and are entrusted by the Government of the Legislative Council are Jamaica with charge of various departments.

It is likely that the proposals now being turned over include also the idea of including a larger number of local representatives—Malayans, Chinese and Indians—than now in the Executive Council.

A point which may occupy attention in the present discussions is the question of Chinese born in Malaya—who do not necessarily acquire Malayan citizenship. Discussion may revolve round the idea of agreement on some common form of citizenship.

The Government intends to encourage the Malayan people—whose present contribution to the present anti-bandit drive in their own country has aroused universal admiration—to take an ever-increasing responsibility for their own affairs.

—Reuter.

\$1 MILLION A YEAR MAN SOON

New York, Mar. 29.—The American cinema comedian, Bob Hope, expects to be worth more than \$1,000,000 a year soon, according to Variety, the entertainment trade journal, which reported today that Bob Hope will sign a long-term contract for this amount with the National Broadcasting Company.

Bob Hope recently drew \$120,000 for a fortnight's second appearance in a Broadway cinema.

—Reuter.

Lili Marlene Arrives In Town



In the strangest hair-style seen so far in 1950, and a leopard-trimmed coat, Lili Marlene (the original Lili Marlene of wartime song fame) arrives in England from Switzerland to make a music-hall tour.—London Express Service.

Food For Starving China: Knowland Makes Suggestion

Washington, Mar. 29.—The United States Republican Senator, Mr. William Knowland, today proposed that surplus American foodstuffs should be sent to Communist China as a "humanitarian move" to relieve famine conditions.

Mr. Knowland made the recommendation in identical letters to President Truman and Mr. Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State, which he made public today.

He said that reports from China indicated that more than 40,000,000 people were in the famine areas and over 10,000,000 more in danger of starving.

At the same time, he said, reports indicated that the Chinese Communists were sending food to Russia in exchange for industrial equipment.

"Nevertheless, the American people always had a friendly interest in the well-being of the people of China," Mr. Knowland said.

He also said that a relief mission, similar to that headed by Mr. Herbert Hoover after the first world war, should be sent to distribute the food.

This would in no way mean United States recognition of the Chinese Communist regime, he added.

URGE MORE AID

The US Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, and the Ambassador-at-large, Dr. Philip Jessup, urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today for increased aid to help countries in the Far East resist Communism.

This was disclosed by Senator Tom Connally, Democratic Chairman of the Committee, after a two-and-a-half-hour closed meeting with Mr. Acheson and his top advisers on Far Eastern policy.

Senator Connally said that the meeting had disclosed major United States policy moves in China, Taiwan and South-East Asia.

Mr. Acheson arrived for the meeting accompanied by Dr. Jessup, Mr. Walton Butterworth, formerly Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs and now an Assistant Secretary of State dealing with Japanese problems; and Mr. Dean Rusk, former Deputy Under-Secretary who this week was placed in charge of the State Department's Far Eastern Affairs Division.

Dr. Jessup and Mr. Butterworth recently returned from extensive tours of the Far East.

In a statement to the press after the meeting, Senator Connally said:

"Ambassador Jessup emphasized from his personal experience and observations the vital importance to the United States of continuing and stepping up United States assistance to the countries of this region where it can add to their determination and ability to resist Communist infiltration and to make further progress towards sound economics and firmly established democratic governments."

FLEXIBLE FUND

Senator Connally added that Dr. Jessup, in discussing the "unsettled situation" in the Far East, pointed out the necessity of having available a flexible fund for use in the general area of China "when and where the need might develop."

According to Senator Connally, Dr. Jessup stressed the importance of early action by Congress on President Truman's Point Four programme for under-developed areas.

In a Foreign Aid Bill now before the House of Representatives, President Truman requested \$45,000,000 to launch the Point Four programme.

Dr. Jessup was quoted as telling the Committee that early Congressional action was required to start the programme. He said it was greatly needed and desired by the people of Eastern Asia and Southern Asia to help them in their own efforts to obtain a higher standard of living from their own resources.

Senator Theodore Green (Democrat—Rhode Island) told reporters after the meeting that they had discussed the whole Far Eastern situation.—Reuter.

ARMED ROBBERY

Three men—one armed with a revolver, and another with a dagger—held up the occupants of 157, Reclamation Street, Yau-mat, first floor, about 10 a.m. this morning.

They escaped with \$300 in cash and two gold rings. Armed Police later searched passengers leaving Star ferries on the Hongkong side.

Harbour Collision Inquiry Findings

COXSWAINS HAVE THEIR LICENCES SUSPENDED

Better Sound Signals For Small Craft Recommended

As a result of a Marine Department inquiry into the collision between the ferry Man To and the walla-walla Australia on the night of March 16, which resulted in the loss of two lives—Mr David Fitzroy-Williams and Mrs Penelope Osborne—the licence of the Man To's coxswain has been suspended for two months and the licence of the coxswain of the walla-walla one month.

The findings also recommended the installation of more efficient sound signalling apparatus on small power-driven craft.

It is understood that in consequence of this recommendation, walla-wallas in future must be fitted with klaxons, and that the use of trumpets for giving signals is to be discontinued.

The full report of the Departmental Inquiry follows:

We were instructed to hold a Departmental Inquiry into the circumstances attending a collision which occurred at about 10.30 p.m. on March 16, 1950 between the ferry vessel Man To and the motor launch Australia, with a view to establishing whether, under Section 37(XI) of Ordinance 10 of 1899 it was necessary to cancel or suspend the certificate of competency of any person involved. The Inquiry was held on March 22 and 23 and we find as follows:

The Man To is a motor ferry vessel, length 110 feet, owned by The Hongkong and Yau-mat Ferry Co. Ltd. At the time of the collision her coxswain was Leung Sal Lo who holds certificate of competency No. 809 dated September 1, 1947. The motor launch Australia is 25 feet long and has a licence (No. 213) to carry 16 persons. She is owned by The Republic Motor Boat Co. and chartered to Cheng Kiu Sing of 474, Shanghai Street, 3rd floor, Kowloon. At the time of the collision, the Australia was in charge of Cheng Kiu Sing who held a coxswain's certificate No. 590 dated April 18, 1947 and also an engineer's certificate No. 412 issued on January 11, 1947. The night was dark and clear, wind Easterly force 5, sea very smooth.

At about 10.30 p.m., the Australia was alongside the port-side gangway of the American steamer Steel Navigator lying at buoy No. A2. The tide was slack, the chub tide just making, and the Steel Navigator was heading about N.N.E. Three European passengers boarded the launch from the Steel Navigator and instructed the coxswain to proceed to the public pier at Tsimshatsui.

The launch cast off and proceeded on a course of about 50-60 feet away on the starboard side and travelling at her full speed of 5-6 knots.

NO SIGNALS HEARD

A few minutes earlier, the Man To had left the Eastern berth at the Vehicular Ferry Pier bound for Mongkok steering to pass to the eastward of the Steel Navigator. The Man To had reached a position approximately 300 feet East of the Steel Navigator's stern and was travelling at a speed of about nine knots when the coxswain saw, line on his port bow, the white mast head light and the green side light of the Australia coming clear of A2 buoy. He estimated the distance of the green light at about 400 feet. (The length of the Steel Navigator is shown in Lloyd's Register as 408.5 feet). He immediately gave two short blasts and altered his course slightly to port. No appreciable change in the bearing of the green light was noticed and, at an estimated distance of 300 feet from the Australia, he again sounded two short blasts and altered course slightly to port. No reduction of speed was made by the Man To at this time. No sound signals were heard from the Australia and no action on the part of the Australia was

detected. Two short blasts were sounded and a slight alteration to port was made for the third time when distance from the Australia was estimated to be 200 feet but full speed was maintained until the Australia's port side light was seen approximately right ahead at a distance estimated by the Man To's coxswain to be 120 feet. The engines were then put full speed astern. No sound signals were heard from the Australia.

Shortly after passing Buoy A2, the coxswain of the Australia saw the white masthead light and red side light of a vessel which he recognised to be a ferry, at a distance estimated to be 200-250 feet, approximately on his starboard beam. He immediately altered course to starboard and sounded one blast on a portable horn blown by mouth. Whilst altering course, he heard two blasts from the ferry and, later, a second two blasts. He continued to alter course to starboard considering it too late to attempt to pass the ahead of the Man To. The ahead of the Man To was approximately 180° and was struck on the port side. The marks on the ferry and on the Australia indicate that the stem of the Man To struck the awning of the "Australia" near the latter's stern, causing her to heel over and swing against the port bow of the Man To with a force sufficient to fracture some frames and, open up the planking. The Australia capsized and sank immediately in a position approximately 70 feet East of Buoy A2. The propeller in the bow of the Man To was at that time going full speed astern and was very heavily augmented the capsizing moment.

RESCUE WORK

After the collision, the Man To stopped by to assist in rescue work. Lifebuoys were immediately thrown overboard and the three Chinese members of the crew and one European (Contd. on Page 5, Col. 1)

Ethel Moller Mystery

Said Being Used As Troop Transport

The Telegraph understands that, according to intelligence reports reaching Hongkong, the Ethel Moller, which has been missing since February 26, has been seized by the Chinese Nationalists and is now being used as a troopship.

These reports added that the Ethel Moller was used in this capacity in the recent landing of Nationalist troops near Chusan.

Nothing is known about the officers and crew of the Ethel Moller—whether they are being held "captive," or are detained incommunicado in Formosa.

Questioned this morning, officials of Messrs Moller said they had received no information as to what has happened to the Ethel Moller. They could neither deny nor confirm the above report.

Death Was An Exaggeration

Prague, Mar. 29.—Dr. Bedek Fierlinger, Deputy Premier of Czechoslovakia, attended today's plenary meeting of the National Assembly and in doing so effectively quashed rumours of his assassination.

The General-Secretary of the Communist Party, Rudolf Slansky, rumoured to have been wounded by revolver shots at the time of Dr. Fierlinger's assassination, also attended. Government officials had already denied the reports last week.—Reuter.

Leopold Crisis: Socialists Suggest A Compromise

Brussels, Mar. 29.—The first break in the 12-day Belgian Cabinet crisis came today when the Socialist Party said it was willing to consider King Leopold's return provided he promised to abdicate in favour of his 19-year-old son.

Paul Henri Spaak, former premier and head of the anti-Leopold Socialists, said the concession should offer the pro-Leopold Social Christians (Catholics) a graceful way out of the present deadlock.

The Social Christians want Leopold back on the throne. He was exiled in 1945. The Socialists are bitterly opposed to him, but M. Spaak said they would accept his heir, Crown Prince Baudouin.

The acting premier, Gaston Eyskens, and the remaining eight Social Christian Ministers in his outgoing coalition Cabinet met today to discuss the Premier-designate's so-called "national solution" to the 12-year-old government crisis over Leopold's proposed return.

Sources close to the Premier-designate, M. Albert Devez, a Liberal who is also acting Defence Minister, said his formula also called upon the King to return but with a pledge to abdicate in favour of the Crown Prince.

Meanwhile, M. Devez made an interim report to the Regent, King Leopold's brother Prince Charles. The Premier-designate's negotiations will be interrupted from tomorrow for the Defence Ministers meeting in the Hague.—United Press.

SECOND NORTHSIDE 777

MAN ALSO NOW FREED

By Frederick Cook

New York — The case of Call Northside 777 (remember the film?) is closed at last. The second of the two men gaoled in Chicago 16 years ago has walked out of Cook County Gaol a free man.

It all began back in 1932 when two gunmen walked into a "speakeasy" in a Chicago slum area and, without a word, shot down and killed a policeman, Patrolman Lundy. He was the eighth Chicago policeman slain that year and orders went out that this time the killers were to be found.

Two young men were arrested some weeks later, Joe Majczek and Teddy Marinkiewicz. At their trial, largely on the testimony of the woman who owned the speakeasy, they were convicted and sentenced to 99 years in the penitentiary. The case seemed finished.

In 1944 a small announcement appeared in advertising columns of the Chicago Times. \$5,000 reward for the killers of Officer Lundy on December 9, 1932. Call — Chicago Times city editor, Karin Walsh, passed the advertisement to Crime Reporter James McGuire, 40-year-old ex-private detective.

MOTHER WAS TRACED
McGuire traced the advertisement to an old woman living in a squallid South Side street not far from the stockyards. She was the mother of Joe Majczek.

For 10 years, McGuire learned, she had slaved as a charwoman, gone short of food, to save enough money to tempt someone to tell the truth about her son, whom she firmly believed was innocent.

Eventually he found that the woman who owned the speakeasy had at first insisted that she did not recognise either of the men who shot the policeman before her eyes, and had then changed her mind and put the finger on Teddy Marinkiewicz. Police traced both men and arrested them.

McGuire published a running account of his investigations, and in August 1945 won a full pardon for Joe Majczek.

INVESTIGATED WITNESS

When they freed Majczek, the Pardon Board cut Marinkiewicz's sentence to 75 years, but refused to set him free. They had ducked over one point: that a witness had stated that Marinkiewicz had once threatened the owner of the speakeasy, though the woman herself had made no such statement.

McGuire decided to investigate this witness. Months of work followed until he was able to prove that she had once harboured a grievance against Marinkiewicz.

He took his evidence to the authorities and won a habeas corpus hearing for the man behind bars.

And now, after 16 years, Teddy Marinkiewicz—at the age of 41—has been set free. His only complaint now: "I cannot sleep. The beds on the outside are too soft."

—London Express Service.



In the film Call Northside 777, James Stewart as reporter McGuire interviewing the mother of Joe Majczek. It was she who inserted the advertisement.

CHICAGO WORLD TRADE FAIR

Chicago, capital of America's midwest, will become an international trading post for two weeks this summer. The city will be the scene of the first international trade fair ever held in the United States.

It will be in an economic tradition dating back to medieval Europe.

About 75,000 buyers are expected to visit the show between August 7 and 19 to look at and buy goods from countries all over the globe.

Exhibits will range from fragile glassware and delicate lace to industrial machinery and chemical raw materials.

LOTS OF SPACE

L. S. Anoff, president of the fair, said Chicago would spend more than \$1,000,000 organizing and promoting the exhibition. Four large buildings with an area of 1,000,000 square feet will house the products of the world's workers.

Foreign goods will occupy about two-thirds of the floor space, and American displays the remainder.

The fair is being organized with the cooperation of the U. S. Government. It was originally the idea of the European Co-operation Administration. It is intended frankly to help foreign manufacturers sell more goods in the United States and thus alleviate their critical dollar shortage.

"We intend to help those countries which are willing to help themselves," Anoff said.

MANY INTERESTED

The "Marshall Plan" countries have shown the earliest and greatest interest in the opportunity for displaying their wares before American buyers, but many countries outside that group will be represented. Anoff said India, Liberia and Latin American countries, including Mexico, have expressed interest.

Czechoslovakia has applied for 10,000 square feet of display space and other countries from

eastern Europe are expected to join her.

About 450,000 square feet is available for rental at US\$3 a foot. For this the display will get a booth, a sign with his name and a listing in the show catalogue.

The fair will be reserved almost exclusively for buyers, with the general public admitted only for brief periods. Buyers will be charged "about \$5 or \$10" and will receive credentials, a catalogue, information, and transportation.

GOVERNMENT TO HELP

A "little Washington" of Government officials is expected to be on hand to help business men find out how they can cut red tape from foreign buying and selling.

Several foreign governments also have announced that they will rent space for information bureaux to perform the same function.

The fair, one spokesman said, "is specifically designed to aid small firms who cannot afford a foreign sales force but who wish to find and sell a new market."

The history of such fairs comes to the present in an almost uninterrupted line from the Middle Ages. —United Press.

GETTING AROUND



The long-necked pelican at the London Zoo doesn't need any rear-view mirrors when it comes to preening his feathers. He stays spic and span with the aid of a long and talented neck which is adapted to reaching all angles. A look-see really has some meaning to this old bird. —(Acme).

REALLY GOOD OLD SONGS STAY POPULAR ALWAYS

By Leo Turner

New York.—A good song never dies, music publishers contend. "That's why it keeps making a good living for the man who wrote it," one publisher observed.

America's popular music is written for youngsters of 12 to 20, he said. But don't scoff. That means if they like it today, they'll enjoy hearing it next year.

There is a big argument along Tin-Pan-Alley over the 10 best money-makers turned out by

American composers. But there is considerable agreement that "White Christmas," a little number by Irving Berlin knocked out in 1942, is one of the all-time contenders.

For some of the others, here are some year-by-year selections from the list of 500 best sellers listed by the American Society of Composers and Publishers. The ones you remember best will also remind you of how old you are.

BEST SELLERS

A Bird in a Gilded Cage (1900), Mighty Lak a Rose (1902), Sweet Adeline (1903), Give My Regards to Broadway (1904), In My Merry Oldsmobile (1905), Every Day Is Like a Sunday (1906), On the Road to Mandalay (1907) Take Me Out to the Ball Game (1908), Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet (1909), Down by the Old Mill Stream (1910).

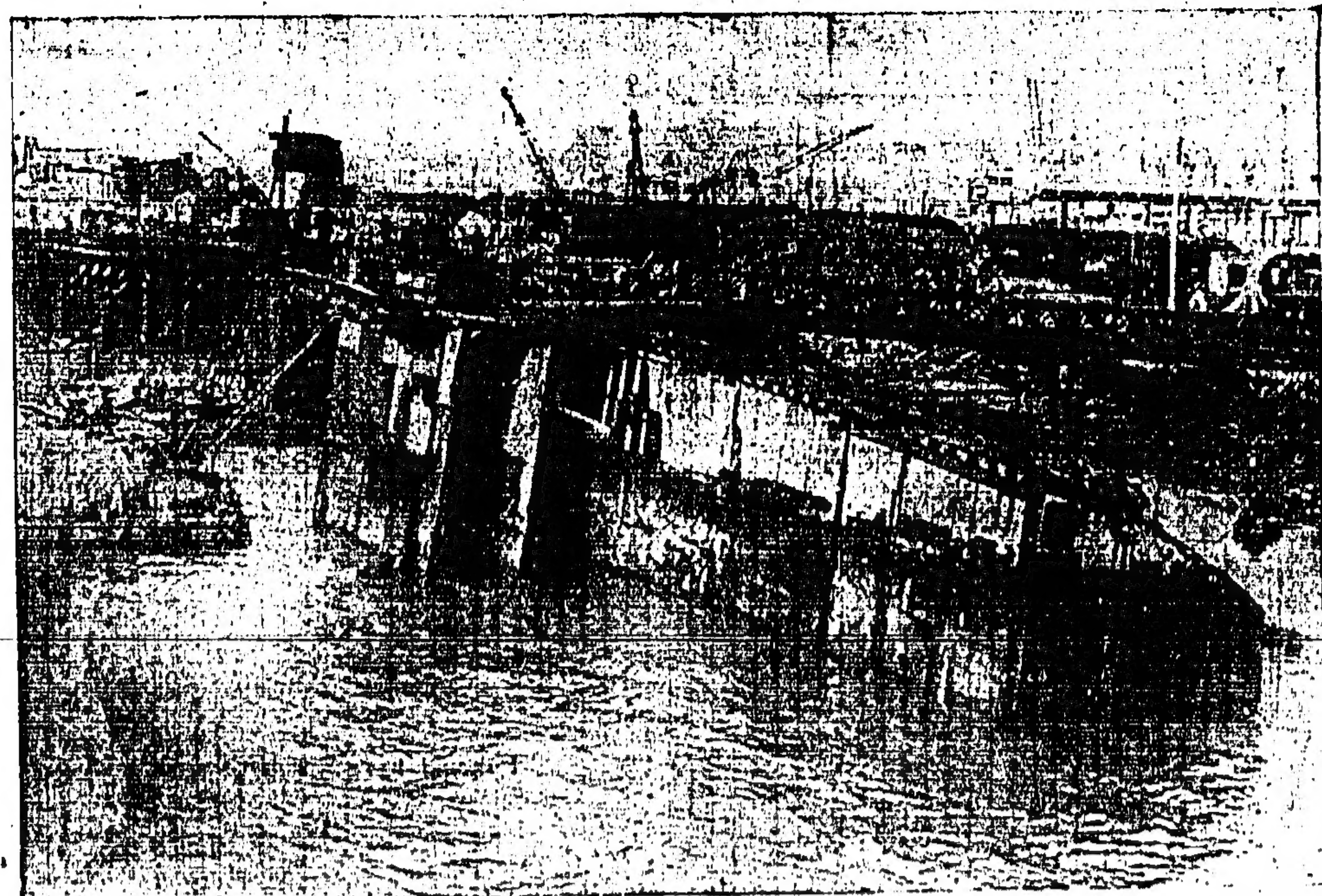
Alexander's Ragtime Band (1911), My Melancholy Baby (1912), Memphis Blues (1913), Missouri Waltz (1914), Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag (1915), Down Among the Sheltering Palms (1916), Darktown Strutters' Ball (1917), Hindustani (1918), Dardanella (1919), Margie (1920).

Wabash Blues (1921), Stumbling (1922), Who's Sorry Now (1923), Rhapsody in Blue (1924), Always (1925), Sweet Georgia Brown (1926), Chole (1927), I Can't Give You Anything but Love Baby (1928), Stardust (1929), Dancing With Tears in My Eyes (1930).

LIST KEEPS GROWING

Goodnight Sweetheart (1931), A Shanty in Old Shantytown (1932), Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (1933), Cocktails for Two (1934), I Got Plenty of Nittin' (1935), These Foolish Things (Remind Me of You) (1936), Rosalie (1937), Thanks for the Memory (1938), Begin the Beguine (1939), God Bless America (1940).

REFLOATING FRENCH LINER IN PIECES



Work is in progress in the harbour at Le Havre, France, on the construction of a special dock for the refloating of the 34,569-ton French liner, Paris, which caught fire and sank at her berth in 1939. The vessel has been divided into five sections by work done below the water surface. — (Acme).

Ancient Story Buried Beneath Nile Sands

By Brian Hodgson

Khartoum, Sudan.—The unwritten story of an ancient Christian civilisation in Africa may be buried beneath the desert sands around Karima and Dongola, on the banks of the Nile. Disturbed only by the hooves of occasional gazelle, this wilderness is believed to conceal the history of a people who populated the area thickly until 1340 A.D.

The people built cities, had their own particular culture and kept an outpost of Christendom flourishing in the depths of the Moslem-controlled Middle East for nearly 800 years.

An amateur archaeologist has set out with camels and Sudanese bearers to survey the area at his own expense. He is Terence Gray, a wealthy Irishman, resident of the South of France.

His purpose is to collect as many "clues" as possible about this civilisation and then to report to P. L. Shinnie, Archaeology Commissioner for the Sudan Government.

BLANK CHAPTER

Gray's finds, though not sensational, have convinced Shinnie that a full-scale scientific expedition should be sent out to the Karima area.

"It will fill in a blank chapter of history if such an expedition is financed," Shinnie said.

If the expedition is not sent, it is likely that the "blank chapter" never will be written. The Egyptian Government is almost certain to start construction of a new dam in the locality soon, and the site of Shinnie's proposed investigations will be flooded by the waters of the Nile.

The Archaeology Commissioner has drawn up a detailed plan for a large expedition, armed with equipment for digging deep enough to fold back the desert from the remains of temples and burial grounds which he feels certain lie under the sands.

PROBABLY NUBIANS

It is believed that the Christian population of this extinct nation were Nubians. They were converted by missionaries of Greek extraction who were sent by the Empress Theodora of Constantinople, in 540 A.D.

Theodora was at one time a harlot dancing girl, but became a devout and active Christian after her marriage to the emperor, Constantine, or Byzantium, was at that time the capital of the eastern half of the split Roman Empire.

It is amazing, Shinnie said, to realise that, while the western world was besieged by the forces of uncivilised barbarians, Theodora's missionaries were able to reach the Sudan and found the Christian community.

The Christian civilisation is believed to have been finally overrun in the middle of the 14th century by Moslem forces from the north. No massacres are known to have taken place, and the reason for the gradual degeneration and final disappearance of the population of the area is another point which Shinnie wants to clear up. — United Press.

NEWCOMER



Starlet Marilyn Monroe is a comparative newcomer to Hollywood, but if she's as talented as she is curvaceous, she's bound to make a name for herself. — (Acme).

West End Hatter Was A Scientist

They were strange headlines to read about a gentleman's hatter of Jermyn Street, London. "British Science Triumphs. Mystery Organism Found. Boon to Mankind."

But then Joseph Edwin Barnard was a strange kind of hatter. For one thing, he was a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Part of each day, it was true, he was at "Jermyn Street," chatting with the distinguished customers who came to his shop, making certain that they got the hats they wanted.

For the rest of each day Mr Barnard was busy with his microscopes. They had been his hobby as a youth. They became his passion as a man. Hour after hour he probed their secrets, experimented, invented.

Then came those headlines in 1925. What had happened?

Mr Barnard had developed an ultra-violet microscope, had gone into research with the famous Dr W.E. Gye.

Modestly Mr Barnard explained which they had done. Dr Gye had grown an organism "closely associated with malignant growth." With his instrument Mr Barnard had examined it. He put his claim no higher.

Controversy still rages about the merits of the Gye-Barnard work. But the will of Joseph Barnard, published earlier this month, tells of the privilege which the hatter's boyhood hobby of science. He was "President of the Royal Microscopical Society; Hon. Director of the Department of Applied Optics at the National Institute for Medical Research."

Strange fame for a hatter. And his work today? Said a medical man: "There are still two schools about the importance of the Gye-Barnard work in cancer research. The issue is whether you think that the virus theory of cancer is important."

But there is no issue about the value of Barnard's work in developing ultra-violet microscopy. It is of incalculable value. Joseph Barnard left £200,000. Duty paid: £10,073. He left his hatter's business to his son John, aged 23, with provision for his widow.

Women Outnumber Men In America

America's 1950 census, which begins on April Fool's Day, is going to be a women's census. Population experts are already agreed that it will be the first ever to reveal a preponderance of women. They suspect that it may show as many as 1,000,000 more women than men.

Questions of "special interest to women" are going to be put at every fifth house throughout the country. These will include a detailed inquiry about housing, covering everything from the age of the television set to the efficiency of the kitchen drains.

Included will be the type of house structure, the heating method employed, how much rent is paid, or how much is still to be met on the mortgage. Census officials said today that scientific samplings have already revealed that a heavy preponderance of women will be shown in the official count. Until 1930, men maintained a margin over women in the United States of 102 to 100 for every 100 women.

TWO REASONS

Two main reasons are given for the switch: The heavy decline of immigration (pre-dominantly men) and the higher death rate among men. The population experts believe that the decline in the ratio of men will go on. But they add that this need not alarm a girl in search of a husband because it will be limited mainly to the older men. There are still more men than women in the "marrying-age groups"—15 to 24.

K. O. CANNON The Riddle of the Red Domino



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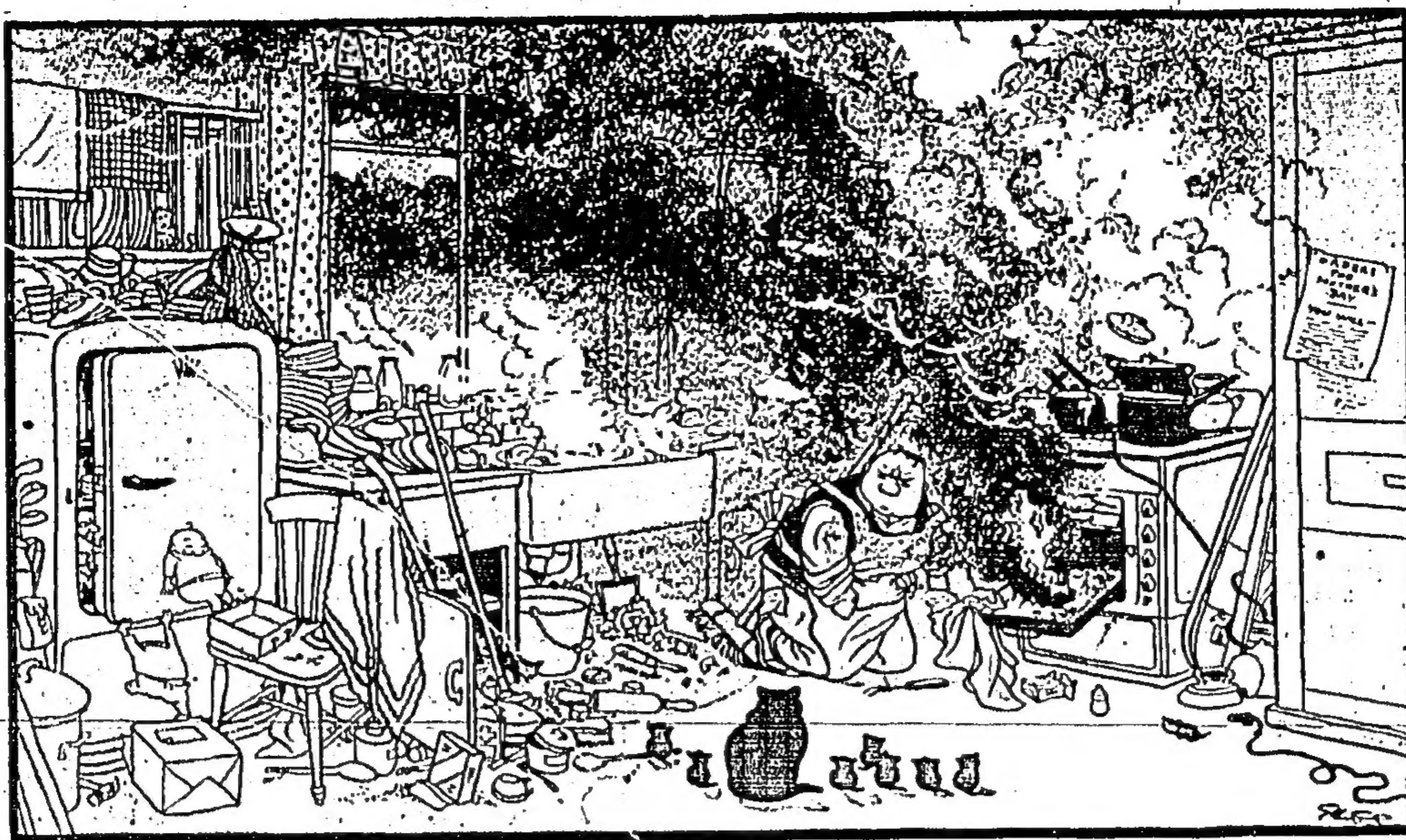
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London Express Service

'Lord of the earth' loses his estates

By CHARLES FOLEY

Rome. PRINCE ALESSANDRO TORLONIA, wealthiest landowner in Europe—lord of the earth—is to be stripped of his richest estates by the Italian Government to end the "green war" between peasants and landowners which threatens to communise the countryside.

Losses will be inflicted on all landed proprietors—who own nearly half Italy—but no one will suffer more severely than Prince Torlonia. His refusal to co-operate in land reforms has angered the Government.

The prince does not know of the decision to seize his estates. When the Minister of Agriculture, Signor Segni, rang him up, he sent this reply: "Princes are not called to the telephone."

In a penthouse overlooking Rome I talked with the lovely young Duchess of Torlonia, who gave up a film career to marry the prince's cousin. "So the prince is to be dispossessed?" she said. "Well, no one will be sorry. He is a man

due to agitators. If the Government take any of my land they violate the Constitution."

Coloured portraits of his father (white imperial), and his uncle (ribbed monarch) gazed down on their 24-year-old son, who works 15 hours a day.

The young prince rears frivolties and dreads up. In a country where Communist organisations look dangerous and wear gold watches, Torlonia wears a cheap, ready-made suit, worn shoes, and a gumball watch.

Though he has a brain for business like a lightning calculator, he could not work out for me what he puts into his estate compared with the millions he takes out.

SILONE

WHEN I left the prince's study office I had eaten up an hour of his time value—about £50 of his £1,500 a day income.

I doubt whether the peasants' Magna Carta, which demands a right of redemption as well as the resettling of 250,000 families on big estates, could have been produced but for two things:

The incidence of America, which regards the scheme as vital to a stable Europe, and the fact that 20 years ago a peasant, Imazio Silone, wrote a book called "Fontemara," which brought home to the world how the forgotten southern half of Italy lives.

Silone, now a prosperous literary man, looked in at my hotel recently to give me an introduction to his friends in Fontemara. I should see the village, he said.

One hundred miles over the mountains from Rome and you drop right into the village. Fontemara mocks the tourist Italy of pretty village girls and wine. Its soil is dry.

The first Torlonia drained the great lake of Fucino and took over the 40,000 fertile acres underneath.

FONTEMARA

FONTAMARA and a dozen lakeside villages gave work to 16,000 peasants on the empty space as feudal-style tenants of tiny holdings, share-croppers, or day labourers. "Do you remember," they asked me, "the hierarchy of the book Fontemara? It is the same today."

Green guards patrol the good earth in the valley on which Fontemara gazes.

The people acted. Down into the valley they poured with rakes, hammers, and picks to get about the repairs in disciplined groups.

They demanded wages for the work. Faced with this upside-down strike, and the danger that the people would keep the land, Torlonia had to pay.

Land reform has been hastened by the offensive to seize and plough uncultivated properties.

Stern action has now been taken to halt this movement first, because it allows the Communists to claim credit for forcing the reform; second, because it has created 1,000



peasant co-operatives which might turn into Soviets. I drove out to Monte Rotondo to see there the model co-operative started five years ago at the cost of many a broken head, when the land was seized from the Government by 1,000 peasants.

A group of Communists were working on what looked like a dismantled tank. The tracks, unrolled along the ground, exposed markings in Russian script. It was they, claimed, a present from Stalingrad, and exactly what the comrades wanted.

In a cavern below the castle were their other treasures—a superb new American combine harvester, another bought second-hand, an Italian Breda tractor, and a mechanical harrow.

Illo Boss, Communist leader of the Peasant Front, sat in his office in Rome under a gold-embroidered red banner and talked proudly of his 1,000 co-operatives all over Italy with their 250,000 peasant members.

I believe the Italian Government is at last in earnest. Land proposals are tabled. But this is no final solution. The population will grow at the rate of 1,000,000 in ten years—and emigration has stopped.

TREASURES

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C.V.R. THOMPSON on tour

cashmere sweater from Britain or a 300-guinea "original" from Paris.

So many of the finest clothes that are made come into the salons of this "hick town" shop, that a Dallas woman can examine in one room what a New York woman could see only by going to 50 shops.

THE FOUR BROTHERS who run this store do not just buy up all the world's finest clothes. They also start fashions.

It is the proud claim of Dallas women that they wore the New Look two months ahead of New York or Hollywood.

Flogging: can we keep order without it?

BY W.J. BROWN

ONE of the curses of partisan controversy is that it over-simplifies all issues. Thus the Lords have been discussing a matter on which feeling runs high in Britain, and on which the partisans are very active. It is: "Should corporal punishment for certain categories of crime be reintroduced? Shall we bring back the cat and the birch?"

That is a gross oversimplification. The real issue is: "How shall we deal with crime?"—a much wider matter, of which the issue of whether to whip or not to whip is only one aspect.

Nobody likes the idea of flogging. But most of us feel that it would do no harm to youths who bludgeoned old age pensioners of 92, or pour paraffin on a poor squirrel's coat, and then set it alight, or stone a cat to death in a sandpit, or commit any one of the innumerable horrors of which we read in the papers, if they experienced a little of the pain they inflict on others.

THE QUESTION

AS with the proposed abolition of punishment, we feel let the criminals start first!

The question must be posed, thus: Granted the situation in the country, granted the limitations on other methods of punishment, ought corporal punishment to be reintroduced, or can we do without it?

Opponents of flogging rest themselves on the report of a Departmental Committee in 1938, which unanimously recommended its abolition, and on the fact that when it was abolished, abolition was not, in the months that immediately ensued, followed by a rise in the crime-rate for offences for which flogging had previously been applied.

I would observe, as to this, that since 1938, we have had a war. That war involved the break-up of more homes

(through conscription, the transfer of industrial workers, bombing and evacuation) than even the war of 1914-18, from which in 1938 we had somewhat recovered.

A generation is growing to manhood whose childhood was beset by the normal security of home and the normal control of the father.

DESERTERS

THAT is not a short-term, but a long-term problem. A generation brought up amid the destruction of the normal security of home and the normal control of the father.

Next there is the problem of the wartime deserter, forced to live underground and often by criminal means, because he cannot lawfully acquire an identity card or a ration book, without disclosing his past. The police favour an amnesty here, but Government have so far refused.

The ideal way of dealing with crime is, of course, to prevent it. How? Through the police? But all over the country there is a shortage of police.

We are 4,000 short in London alone, and probably 20,000 short over the country as a whole. And as for the policemen we have, a lot of their time is spent in enforcing the myriad regulations which we are subject, and of which the number, and sometimes the character, is such as to diminish respect for law itself.

In these days of full employment and social security in old age, men are not drawn to the police force as they used to be, by the prospect of regular employment and a pension at the end.

NEW RECRUITS

TWO things would attract more recruits. One is higher pay to compensate for the irregular hours and the six-day week which is so often a seven-day week. The other is more houses for policemen.

Sir Stafford Cripps forbids more than the recent modest rise, and Mr. Bevan forbids the second. The understaffing will thus continue.

What crimes are committed they must be punished. But how? By imprisonment?

Very well—but the prison population today is roughly twice what it was before the war. And, apart from some Borstal-prisons-without-bars no new prisons have been built. So some 2,000 prisoners are being accommodated three in a cell. This involves much greater risk of concerted action against prison officers than when prisoners are separately accommodated, and greater risk that what the sentence will do to a prisoner is not to reform him, but to complete his criminal education.

Like the police forces, the prison service is grossly undermanned, and for much the same reasons. But the Home Secretary has refused prison officers even the modest increase given to the police.

Public alarm about the crime wave is fully justified. Night-watchmen, bank clerks, book-lending-office clerks, cinema managers even women in their own homes are not safe.

DETERRENT

THAT corporal punishment is a deterrent I make no doubt. It deterred me. The Government have no doubt either. For it preserves corporal punishment for attacks on wardens.

When you have seen, as I have seen, a strong man full of life and intelligence reduced to the level of a permanent moron by a prisoner driving a pair of cloth-cutting shears into his brain, you think the Government are right. But if it is right there, it cannot be wholly wrong everywhere else.

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NANCY Puffetly Obvious



By Ernie Bushmiller



Far East Looms Large In Parliament

Ship Wrecked Off Italian Coast

Naples, Mar. 29.—The Israeli steamship "Mercury" has been wrecked off the Southern Italian coast. Ten of the crew of 17 persons have been saved thus far by rescue boats from Vibo Valentia. The "Mercury" began sinking while en route from Messina, Sicily, to Genoa. United Press.

Harbour Collision Inquiry

(Continued from Page 1)

passenger (the Radio Officer of the Steel Navigator) were rescued. Unfortunately no ship was seen of the other two European passengers. Captain Penelope Osborne, presented on Steel Navigator and David Fitzroy-Williams of Messrs Gilman & Co. Valuable assistance in the rescue work was rendered by unknown sampans in the vicinity, a lifeboat from the Steel Navigator, in the charge of the Chief Officer of the ship, and Marine Police Launch No. 10 in the charge of Sub-Inspector F. H. Woods.

We consider that the Australia when first sighted, was crossing the Central Highway. It was not until about 10 of 1899, Table M. (6), and we find that the coxswain of both vessels concerned considered on this occasion that the Australia was the "giving way" ship and the Man To the "standing on" ship. We find that the immediate cause of this collision was the action taken by the coxswain of the Man To. Whilst fully appreciating the difficulty of deciding when the standing on vessel should itself take action as prescribed by the Rules of the Road, we can find no justification for the action taken by the Man To's coxswain on this occasion. If he considered that the two vessels could not be averted by action of the Man To, his duty was to take such action as would best aid to avert collision. We cannot consider that slighting the Man To's coxswain in continuing at full speed constituted that required action. In putting his helm to starboard and endeavouring to pass astern of the Man To, the coxswain of the Australia was acting in accordance with these Regulations.

PRIMARY CAUSE

We find however that the primary cause of this collision lay elsewhere. When these two vessels sighted each other, they were in such positions relative to each other and proceeding at such speeds that collision could only be avoided by immediate and drastic action. The interval between sighting the Australia and the Man To's coxswain at approximately one minute. Our calculations indicate that the interval may have been somewhat less than this. This fact alone should have aroused suspicion that the Man To was approaching a main fairway along which vessels to which she must give way might be proceeding. The coxswain's restricted port was greatly restricted by the presence of the Steel Navigator. The vision of the coxswain of the Australia was restricted to starboard to an even greater extent by the same vessel. He was about to cross the route along which ferries from the vehicular ferry pier are constantly plying. Both vessels were thus in a position analogous to that of a motorist entering a main highway at a blind corner or a pedestrian leaving the pavement to cross the road ahead of a stationary bus. We consider that insufficient caution was exercised by the coxswains of both vessels in these circumstances and we therefore recommend that the certificate of Leung Sai I, coxswain of the Man To, be suspended for two months and that the coxswain's certificate of Cheng Ki, coxswain of the Australia, be suspended for one month. We further recommend that the possibility of installing monitoring sound signalling apparatus on small power driven craft be investigated.

We wish to pay tribute to the frankness with which both coxswains gave evidence at this enquiry. The main facts were therefore easily established and such minor differences as did exist could be readily attributed to the different viewpoints of the witnesses and the rapid sequence of events. We also wish to thank the Government Director for coming forward to give valuable evidence, and the officers in charge of the Marine Police and the Marine Licensing Officer for mustering the witnesses and supplying essential information.

PEKING RECOGNITION QUESTIONED

London, Mar. 29.—British recognition of Communism in China was questioned in the House of Commons today.

Mr Leonard Gammans, Conservative, asked if the Government had balanced the problematical benefits with the "undoubted dislike" of the action by Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

There was also the encouragement given to the Malayan "bandits" and the danger of having Chinese Communists in the consulates of Malaya, he said. Mr Kenneth Younger, the new Minister of State at the Foreign Office, replied that the Government had tried to balance these considerations. There was, he said, a division of opinion between nations about this question of recognition.

Plot To Assassinate Voroshilov

Sofia, Mar. 29.—Twenty-six Yugoslav and Bulgarian "spies and diversionists" went on trial here today on charges of plotting to assassinate Marshal Klement Voroshilov, Soviet Vice-Premier, and members of the Bulgarian Cabinet.

The indictment says that they were recruited by the "Tribunite" espionage centre in Yugoslavia to spy in Bulgaria, according to the Bulgarian news agency. They are accused of "terrorist activities" and planning to bomb the Dimitrov Mausoleum last September when Marshal Voroshilov and Bulgarian officials reviewed a March Day on the fifth anniversary of the entry of Soviet troops into Bulgaria.

The trial is being held in public in the Sofia Palace of Justice, and Bulgarian and Foreign journalists were admitted. More than 50 witnesses and experts will be heard.—Reuter.

Supports The Spender Plan

London, Mar. 29.—Speaking in the House of Commons last night, Mr Anthony Eden, Conservative, said that the Spender Plan to develop South-East Asia should form the basis of British action in Asia. That meant an effort to promote stable government in these countries and not merely to pay out millions of money which, without stable internal conditions, had very little effect. "I hope the Government will send a strong delegation to Sydney," he said. He added that if the releases of sterling balances were to be regarded as part of this endeavour to improve economic conditions in Asia, then it ought to be clearly stated. The contribution of all the nations towards economic stability in Asia ought to be appreciated and measured accordingly, he said.—Reuter.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"You look grand in your first dress suit, George—you'll be the town's Boau Brummell just like your father was!"

Servicewomen's Re-Union At Albert Hall



A hand girl in the 1914-18 war and a staff sergeant in the ATS in World War II, Miss Ruth Burton re-union chatting to Pte. E. E. James of Brixton. Miss Burton holds the M.B.E., among her several decorations.

Brussels Pact Consultations

Paris, Mar. 29.—The Foreign Ministers of the five Brussels Pact nations, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, will meet in Brussels on April 16 and 17. The French Foreign Office announced today.

The Ministers whose countries are allied in the Brussels Pact are pledged to meet regularly to carry out the alliance.—United Press.

EUROPEAN UNION HITS SNAGS

London, Mar. 29.—Speaking in the foreign affairs debate in Parliament today, Mr Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, contacted Mr Winston Churchill's assertion that the Council of Ministers seemed to be acting cautiously that they stood in the way of the European Assembly.

"You may get resolutions carried in the Assembly without any details worked out, or responsibilities involved which cannot be applied without very grave consideration," he said.

Observing that he was going to Strasbourg tomorrow, Mr Bevin said that one of the proposals he would have to discuss was something he was quite sure Britain could not accept. It was virtually to create an executive body in Europe that was not elected by the people, nor even by Parliament, which could be imposed upon the State. The House of Commons would not agree to this for one moment.—Reuter.

Britain's Labour Unrest Breaks Into Open

London, Mar. 29.—Labour unrest burst into the open in Britain today for the first time since the Labour Party's narrow victory in the general election with a slowdown on docks and 2,700 mine workers, idled by two strikes for higher wages.

The Labour government has been enforcing a wage-freeze programme.

The strike at Harrowed Steam Colliery involved 1,300 men, and threatened production in many collieries could not estimate yet how many—South Wales collieries.

Five hundred surface workers walked out in a wage dispute involving 200 fitters and 800 underground workers. The haulage workers' power station remained meanwhile by a skeleton staff of officials. Union members scheduled a mass meeting for later at night.

Twelve hundred workers are idle at a colliery near Coventry in a dispute over wage rates for working a new coal seam. Mine officials said the new rates for working the seam had been agreed upon, but a number of the men decided on Wednesday to protest, causing complete stoppage.

Dock workers meanwhile held mass meetings at three of London's biggest wharves, as a campaign to halt all overtime work gained momentum and slowed loading and unloading of ships.—United Press.

With Opposition

London, Mar. 29.—Parliamentary papers show that six Labour Members of Parliament voted with the Opposition early today against the Government's motion to close the debate on Seretse Khama.—Reuter.

EISENHOWER DISQUIETED BY OUTLOOK IN ASIA

Washington, Mar. 29.—General Dwight Eisenhower today described himself as "very disturbed and alarmed" about Communist advances in Asia and he urged military and economic help to Asiatic nations resisting the Reds.

General Eisenhower told the Senate Appropriations Committee that the picture in Asia was "very discouraging" and suggested that Congress carefully consider "both economic and military help" for that area.

He added that limited military aid for non-Communist Asia would give those countries "some sort of confidence" while economic help meant "a hope for tomorrow."

He did not believe war was "taking chances" by not spending enough for the Air Force, anti-submarine warfare and Alaskan defenses.

He urged the United States to provide a small garrison at each of its major airfields against the danger of "some kind of air attack."

As for the administration's proposed US\$13,100,000,000 military budget, he said, "I would change it a little," but added quickly that he thought "there is a possibility of meeting most of the situation pretty well" at that figure.

"We are fairly well on the proper line between economy and security... but in certain details we have been careless," he said. He added that he "would not recommend any drastic revision" but "it would probably add a few hundred million," mainly for anti-submarine work, the Alaskan ground forces, keeping the Air Force modernized and for industrial mobilization.

He said the United States had "gone as far in favour of economy" in military spending as was wise, and "in some specific ways, too far." General Eisenhower's testimony at first was to have been secret, but the hearing was thrown open to the public. It was understood President Truman wanted the general to state his views publicly.—United Press.

No Crisis In Indo-China

Paris, Mar. 29.—The Vietnamese Prime Minister, Nguyen Phan Long, said on his return to Saigon from Hanoi today that there was "no question of a Governmental crisis at present," according to an Agence France Presse report from Saigon.—Reuter.

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Mrs. Roosevelt's Judgment On Chiang

Lake Success, Mar. 29.—Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt said today that the Russians welcomed a pre-text walking out of the United Nations Human Rights Commission because they would have found it difficult to explain to the Soviet people why they opposed drafting of an international treaty guaranteeing the rights of individuals.

However, she continued, it seemed futile to support the Chinese Nationalists, whose presence in the United Nations was the official reason given by the Soviet delegation for its 10-week boycott of the world organisation.

Mrs Roosevelt told a luncheon of the United Nations Correspondents Association:

"Most of us feel the Nationalists were given every opportunity to form a government representing all the people of China. They were urged to do so by Secretary of State Marshall. They also had ample opportunity to make reforms, to appeal to the great masses of the people. They didn't do so."

"I think that the Communism that resulted cannot be solely the result of Russian help. It is quite evident that it is largely the result of the weak Nationalist government, which did not do what the Chinese people wanted. To support the Nationalists seems futile. I don't very well see how we can make any other decision, but our own decision must be the result of what Ambassador Jessup reports and what we decide for our own good."—United Press.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. 6, "Hongkong Calling" — Programme Summary: 8.02. London Studio Melodist—The Melodious Orchestra (BBCS); 8.30. La Demieure Francaise (Studio); 7. World News and News Analysis (London Relay); 7.15. Sports Review by Bill Phillips (Studio); 7.30. "Take It From Here" with Joy Nichols, Dick Bentley and Jimmy Edwards (BBCS); 8. "From the Editorials" (London Relay); 8.10. "Hongkong Dock Call"—Joint H.K. Command.—Introduced by Captain David Jones (Relay from the 9.00. Club, Kowloon); 8.40. "At the Opera"—Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" Act 3. With the Principal Orchestra and Chorus of Royal Opera House, Rome. Conducted by Oliviero De Fabritis; 9.15. "Antarctic Venture"—The Story of the Falkland Island Dependencies Survey (Recorded Relay); 10. Radio News (London Relay); 10.15. Weather Report; 10.16. "In my Library"—A Talk by Rose Macaulay (BBCS); 10.30. "Thursday Serenade"—A Programme of Continuous Music Arranged by Betty Brown; 11. "Soft Lights and Sweet Music"; 11.15. Weather Report, World News and Home News from Britain (London Relay Recorded); God Save the King; 11.30. Close Down.

Rio de Janeiro, Mar. 29.—Crowds jammed the streets today to witness the latest appearance of a "flying saucer."—Reuter.

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Council Of Europe Meeting

Germany May Be Admitted

Paris, Mar. 29.—Germany's entry into the Council of Europe will be the main subject of discussion at the meeting of the Council's Ministerial Committee in Strasbourg tomorrow, a French Foreign Office spokesman said today.

The Council will discuss the procedure to be adopted to facilitate Germany's entry into the Council, the spokesman added.

An invitation to Germany from the Ministerial Committee is not excluded, he said.

Germany's entry into the Council was expected to be settled at this meeting of the Ministerial Committee.

If all went well, Germany could be represented at the July session of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The Saar would probably join the Council of Europe very shortly after Germany, the spokesman said.

REPORT DENIED

He denied a report from Bonn today that the Western German Chancellor, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, had received an assurance from the French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, that France would support the nomination of a German as observer to the Ministerial Committee, once Germany had joined the Council.

"This would be contrary to the Council of Europe's statute, which provides that only foundation members may be represented on the Ministerial Committee," the spokesman said.

Asked if France would support a change in the statute to make the nomination of a German observer possible, the spokesman said, "No," he said.

BEVIN AT CALAIS

Strasbourg, Mar. 29.—European Foreign Ministers are on their way to Strasbourg for a meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe which opens here tomorrow.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, has reached Calais, while the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, left Rome by train today.

The Council's first concern will be to discuss the admission of the West German Federal Republic and the Saar territory to associate membership.

The Saar has also applied for membership. Germany's position will be considered in the light of the conditions set forward last week by the West German Chancellor, Dr. Konrad Adenauer.

Members of the Consultative Assembly will be meeting today to discuss the text of the Statute of the Council of Europe which begins on Saturday.

The United States Defence Secretary, Mr. Louis B. Johnson, will preside at the meeting, he said.

WHITSUN SESSION

Paris, Mar. 29.—The European Movement today recommended that the European Assembly of the Council of Europe should hold a short seven-day session at Whitsun to discuss the report due from the Committee of Ministers on the situation of a European union.

This recommendation is being submitted to the Committee of Ministers, meeting at Strasbourg tomorrow, and to the Standing Committee of the European Assembly.—Reuter.

China-India Post

San Francisco, Mar. 29.—Peking Radio reported tonight that the postal service between India and Communist China would be resumed. The resumption would cover letters, postcards, trade contracts, printed matters and samples of commodities. Parcel post and other services will not be resumed at present.—Reuter.

AT WRAC REUNION



HERE the Princess Royal, Controller of Commandant of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Field Marshal Sir William Slim, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and Senior Controller Dame May Tyrwhitt, at the fourth annual reunion of the QMAAC, Women's Army Corps of the 1914-18 war, at the WRAC at the Royal Albert Hall, London. It was by this reunion that the CIGS announced that the King had approved the change of all existing WRAC commissioned rank titles to their equivalent in the Army.

BUTTERWORTH TO CONCENTRATE ON JAPAN AFFAIRS

Washington, Mar. 29.—Authoritative quarters contended today that political as well as diplomatic reasons prompted Mr. Dean Acheson's appointment of Mr. Walter C. Butterworth to the full-time job of handling relations with Japan.

The official account of Mr. Butterworth's new job stressed importance his work will have in the preparation of the peace treaty with Japan. However, other informed sources said that while he undoubtedly will explore that field to get some kind of programme regarding the treaty, this is not necessarily the full reason for his transfer, nor does it mean a treaty is any nearer.

This viewpoint coincided with the caution expressed privately by more than one official not to expect any sudden development towards a Japanese peace treaty.

Political circles noted that Mr. Acheson seemed to have decided upon a policy of bettering the State Department's relations with Congress. One evidence of this was his plan—disclosed last night—to appoint former Republican Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky as adviser to the forthcoming Big Three Foreign Ministers meeting in London.

They recalled that Mr. Butterworth's long term in the office of criticism from some members of Congress, particularly Republicans. His replacement is Dr. Dean Rusk, who enjoys more favourable position in relation to Congress for various reasons, including the one that he was not blamed, as was Mr. Butterworth, for his part in the unsuccessful policy towards anti-Nationalist China.

DOUBLE REASON

Political circles said Mr. Acheson thus saw double reason to transfer to Mr. Butterworth new duties, and that the domestic political aspect might be more important of the two particularly if time should prove that great debater still the head in preparation of the Japanese treaty as most authorities here believe.

Meanwhile, two reasons for attention to the Japanese treaty were better clarified, even though this might be only explanatory work. These were: First, to have some definite United States views developed in time either for the important Big Three meeting in May or the British Commonwealth conference in Canberra that month; and, Secondly, to offset any more for peace treaty which the Soviets and Chinese Communists might launch.

Middle East Parleys Give Rise To Many Conflicting Reports

Cairo, Mar. 29.—Reports that Britain had intervened in the Jordan-Arab League dispute, warning Egypt that intervention in Jordan's internal affairs would be considered as hostile to Britain, were dismissed in Arab and British official quarters in Cairo as "sheer fabrications."

While British and American diplomats have been counselling Arab leaders to be moderate and not disturb peace and stability in the Middle East, it is stressed that recent events within the Arab League were not as gloomy as they may appear.

A spokesman of the Arab League said: "There has never been any question of intervention in Jordan's internal affairs by any Arab state. Even if the League should decide to expel Jordan and take economic sanctions, this does not amount to intervention in internal affairs."

A mass of conflicting, baseless reports have been reaching Cairo from the Arab League's Council opened on March 25.

Aid Asked To Trap Singapore Communist

Singapore.—The Singapore Special Branch has sent a call to police throughout Southeast Asia asking for help in trapping a Chinese Communist bomb-thrower who carried human skin in his wallet, according to the Sunday Tribune.

The skin—three small wafers—was folded in cheap white paper and labelled in Chinese "White skin peeled off on the third occasion."

The Special Branch is convinced that the bomb-thrower is linked with the recent grenade attempt on the anti-Communist Chinese newspaper, Chung Shing Jit Pao, though not actually the man who threw the grenade.

A few hours before the incident, an employee of the paper was cycling home when he was attacked by two Chinese. The attackers fled on the approach of a bus, but the employee found that in the struggle he had torn out the skin of one of the men and was still clutching the man's wallet.

The wallet contained, in addition to the skin, the list of names and addresses which the police are now investigating. The employee's description of the man who had the wallet was found to tally with that of a wanted Communist bomb-thrower, who is known to have taken part in sabotage in other cities in Southeast Asia.—Reuter.

Vansittart Says:

Odds On A War With Russia

London, Mar. 29.—Lord Vansittart, former chief diplomatic adviser to the Government, said today that it was his considered judgment that the odds were on a Soviet war of aggression rather than against it.

"All my life I have never seen any nation preparing for war" quite so openly as the Soviet Union, he told the House of Lords.

He was urging resolute precautions against Communist infiltration into public service and other important branches of British public life.

Lord Jowitt, the Lord Chancellor, replying for the Government, said he strongly suspected that Britain was more free from Communism than any other country.

He made these other points: The membership of the Communist Party in Britain had remained fairly constant at about 10,000 for a good many years. There was no reason to think that it was increasing.

Seventy-four Communists and Fascists had been removed from their posts in the Government's purge in the last two-and-a-half years.—Reuter.

INTELLIGENCE TEST SOLUTION

In the light of Batty's clues "Thirteen Thirteens": "Integer": "every letter is significant": "clearly pointed": there should be little difficulty in interpreting the system of code names. One-thirteenth, two-thirteenth, and so on, expressed as decimal fractions, form two cyclic series, in each of which the same six digits recur. So we get:

No. 1 070923 ADEMOY	No. 8 153940
No. 2 839769	No. 9 401328
No. 3 957608	No. 10 015384
No. 4 993507	No. 11 841553
No. 5 709230	No. 12 841553
No. 13 924070 NOYADE	No. 14 841553

We can now read off the other code names. No. 8's is OXADEN. No. 9's is TADENO. No. 10's is XOREST, and so on. Batty's code name is ORESTY.

London Express Service.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

ANSWERS

1. Ignaz Jan Paderewski.
2. A Mexican cowboy.
3. Fort is the left hand side and starboard the right hand side.
4. In the deserts of Africa and Arabia.
5. An ambassador with full powers to make a treaty.
6. Lima.

NOTICE

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN & MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that the Forty-Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held in the Jacobson Room of the Hongkong Hotel, Pedder Street, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 16th April, 1950, at Noon, for the following purposes, namely, to consider the annual statement of accounts and the balance sheet, and the reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon to elect Directors and Auditors in the place of those retiring, to declare a dividend and bonus, to appropriate the balance of Profit and Loss Account as recommended by the Directors, and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

AND NOTICE is also given that the Share Transfer Registers will be closed from 4th April, 1950, to 15th April, 1950, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board,
R. A. WICKERSON,
Managing Director,
Hongkong, 30th March, 1950.



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We will forward replies to the stated address if the advertiser desires.

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If the wants of advertisers are quickly met and they do not desire any further replies forwarded, we shall be glad to be notified promptly to that effect when a suitable acknowledgment will be inserted free of charge.

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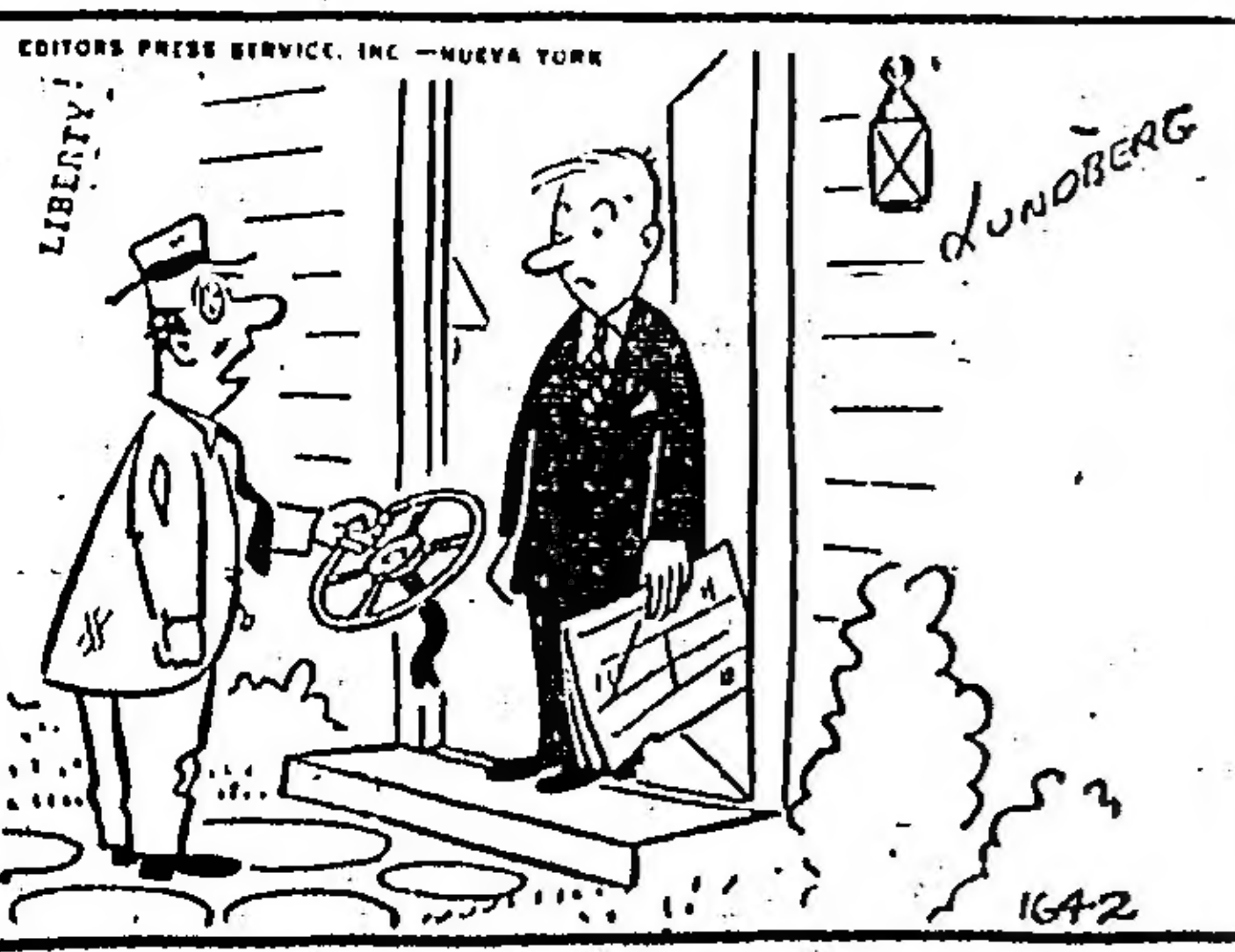
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ORDERS BOOKED.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. News and classified advertisements will be received up to 10 a.m. and urgent notices until 11 a.m. on day of issue, Saturday not later than 0930.

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